

Current Volunteers**Castolon**

Bonnie Winslow—Camphost (2nd)
Ken & Vicky Conway—Visitor Center (2nd)
Paul & Judy Tarr—Visitor Center (2nd)
Steve & Tina Ehrman—Backcountry (9th)
Rick & Debbie Trimble—Camphost (2nd)

Chisos Basin

Terry Brackeen—Camphost (4th)
Jim & Mary Lynn Murrell—Camphosts (5th)
Phil & Peggy Spruell—Visitor Center (3rd)
Jimmy Duke—Visitor Center (1st)

Panther Junction

Steve Blythe (3rd) - VaRP River (3rd)
Daisy Welch (4th) - VaRP River (4th)
Joan Spalding—ScRM (2nd)
Riley & Karen Caton—EMS (4th)

Persimmon Gap

Mike Manning—Visitor Center (1st)
Dave Yorkowitz—Visitor Center (1st)

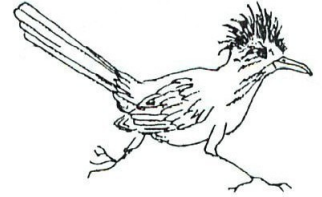
Rio Grande Village

Dave England—Backcountry (2nd)
Allen & Becky Wilson—Backcountry (1st)
Susan Treneer—Camphost (1st)
Don McCord—Camphost (1st)
Joe Larrance—Visitor Center (1st)
Mike & Jeanette Sage—Visitor Center (1st)

Resident and remote volunteers

Reine Wonite— Park Videographer (11th)
Jim Bishop-BBNHA
Tom Alex—ScRM (1st)
Jeff Bantle—ScRM (1st)

* Number in () indicates years of service

**NPS VIP network
moves to Facebook**

In the January 2012 issue of the VIP2VIP the front page article was about the NPS VIP Network, a website where NPS volunteers could post information about their NPS volunteer experience. It also had a blog that allowed volunteers to ask questions about NPS locations from the volunteer perspective; such as, how are the RV sites at a certain park, or how inconvenient is grocery shopping, etcetera. There was a group within this site called RV Volunteers-In-Parks which was managed by John Pfistner, who volunteered here at Big Bend NP for a season. The motto of this website is “Bringing together NPS VIPs, Volunteer managers and friends”.

I received the following message in early January: “It has been a great 7 years for the NPS VIP Network and we thank you for your participation in this online experience. We are now consolidating efforts and focusing energy on the NPS Volunteers-In-Parks page on Facebook. The NPS VIP Network will be shutting down as of February 7, 2015. If you haven't already done so, please like the NPS Volunteers-In-Parks page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/npsvolunteers> and continue the conversations there!”

A number of our current and previous volunteers are members of this Facebook group. I am going to try to do a better job of including our accomplishments and activities here at Big Bend NP on this site, but you can get involved also! It is your Facebook page!

More concerning Facebook and volunteer connections....

We also have a Big Bend VIP group on Facebook, which you need an invite to join. Many of the volunteers who have been here in years past are still active on the site and use it to keep up with their old friends' activities. You just need to ask me for an invite, as I am currently Administrator for the group. Now, I will say that I am not the best person for this job, as my Facebook participation is kind of pathetic, however, I am going to try to do better! You can help by posting interesting things that you are up to in the park or elsewhere. This group of volunteers is all over the place and you can often gain information from previous volunteers about another park where you will be volunteering.....get the real scoop! -Jane Brown

Comings and Goings....

We said goodbye to quite a few volunteers in the last week. Karren Brown headed off for east Texas to be nearby for the upcoming birth of a grandbaby. Scott Cook got a paying gig with NPS at Page, AZ (Glen Canyon). Mike Garr was here for the month of February, preparing the way for the Sierra Club and he has now returned to Austin. Ed Davis took off for Missouri as planned and we thank him for his help from Nov. 1-Feb. 28. Jep Robertson made an unexpected departure from Cottonwood Campground due to health concerns.

On the return side, Rick and Debbie Trimble arrive next week to help out at Cottonwood Campground until after Easter. Also, Jimmy Duke is back in the park, this time volunteering for the month of March at the Chisos Basin Visitor Center and we are glad to have him.

Hiking Club scheduled for Monday, March 30

The hiking club is a chance for volunteers (and anyone else who wants to come!) to get together for a hike, visit with one another, and see something that you might not see on your own. These hikes are not Olympic events, but rather not too difficult hikes at a reasonable pace. We will be going to Pine Canyon for the March hike. It is a walk of about 6 miles round-trip. We will be leaving from the back parking lot of Panther Junction at 9 am and taking the van, hopefully. Those of you coming from Rio Grande Village may want to meet us at the parking lot at the beginning of the Glenn Canyon Road. Do bring water, a hat and snacks or lunch.

If you know that you are coming, it is a good idea to email mail me and I will know to wait for you if you are running a few minutes late.



Hiking Club outing on February 24—Steve and Tina Ehrman and Terry Brackeen made a thru-hike at Apache Canyon. I didn't get to go!! Boo hoo! The weather eventually cooperated, but I imagine that it was a cold start. jb

The Sierra Club and three Texas Master Naturalists spent the last week of February volunteering on the revegetation project called “Restoring the Rosillos”. They wrangled with 19 thorny piles of brush, taming them into vegetation strips that had been lightly plowed and sprayed with the hydromulcher solution of native grass seeds and soil stabilizer. Much tugging, dragging, and pulling was involved in rearranging the brush piles. Encouraging the hydromulcher involved stomping and squeezing. Twenty-nine volunteers contributed around 1,000 hours of work. This project was led by Jeff Bennett, Joe Sirotnak, Lydia Smith and volunteer Mike Garr. According to my records, this is the 18th year that the Sierra Club has come and contributed to this and other projects here at Big Bend National Park. –J. Brown



Wrangling



Toting



Tugging



Stomping



Squeezing



Success with the hydromulcher



Sierra Club Group—not the best weather week, but they persevered.

Here is the word from the Conways at Castolon Visitor Center:

“So Vicky completed First Aid/CPR/AED training Monday, and today was inventorying our Castolon wall-mounted first aid kit. You may recall it's about 4 feet off the deck, and for some reason I was below it and when I came up, I bonked my head on the open door of the kit, and stumbled off in a dazed state. So she offered me first aid. Very convenient, that training and kit.....

Scary, your volunteers are.” - Ken Conway

I know that everyone is tired around Spring Break from all the activity in our park, but this is a very interesting place that can only be accessed during a few weekends a year! I made it up here one spring and really was impressed.

-Jane Brown

Open Weekend at the Davis Mountains Nature Conservancy Preserve

On March 20-22, The Nature Conservancy's Davis Mountains Preserve will be open for hiking, biking, equestrian, picnics, photography, birding and other outdoor activities on selected days this year. Hours for Open Weekend events are from Friday at 8:00 am until Sunday at 4:00 pm.

The Davis Mountains Preserve is located approximately 25 miles northwest of Ft. Davis on Hwy. 118 (about 10 miles past McDonald Observatory & about ¼ mile past the Lawrence E. Wood Picnic Area). **Guests will be required to sign in and out at the McIvor Conservation Center. Camping is only allowed in designated areas, and only on Open Weekends.**

Important Reminders:

- Only high clearance street legal vehicles will be allowed past the McIvor Conservation Center.
- Only camp stoves are allowed, and ground fires are prohibited.
- Restrooms are available at the McIvor Conservation Center.
- Guests should bring their own food and drinks and plan to take their trash home with them.
- Hikers should bring their own binoculars, cameras, sunscreen, hats, appropriate footwear and plenty of water to drink.
- Firearms and any technology that disrupts quiet enjoyment are not permitted on the preserve.
- For safety reasons, children must be supervised by their parents or other designated adults.
- No pets of any kind are permitted on the preserve, other than service animals for assistance.



KRISTINE
8-15
kristinecartoon.com



PARK RANGERS CAUGHT A CAMPER LEAVING HIS GARBAGE LYING AROUND FOR THE THIRD TIME, SO HE WAS TRANQUILIZED AND RELOCATED BACK TO THE CITY.

Events in the Area

March 4 -Volunteer Potluck Lunch and Spring Break Meeting—There will be a meeting about what to expect during Spring Break on Wednesday, March 4 at 2 pm at the Panther Junction Community Room. Everyone who will be dealing with the public during Spring Break is encouraged to attend. Prior to the meeting, we will have a Volunteer Potluck Lunch at 12:30 pm in the Panther Junction Community Room. Bring a covered dish to share and we will provide iced tea (or coffee!).

Saturday, March 7—12th annual Terlingua Chihuahua Dog Races at the Family Crisis Center in Terlingua Ghost Town. Registration starts at 10 a.m., the costume contest (always funny) is at noon, and the races follow at 1 pm. There also will be a silent auction, and all proceeds support the Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend. Come out to race your dog(s) or just to enjoy the fun and entertainment. Music by Dr. Fun. Please call Mike Drinkard with any questions: 371-3147

Saturday night March 7 at midnight—TIME TO SPRING FORWARD—DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS.

Sunday, March 8- Terlingua Tanz performs at the Starlight Theater Brunch from 11-2. Dance music from around the world and a great brunch. Quartet with violin, oboe, accordion and classical guitar.

March 7-until March 21—Backcountry Permit Zoo will be set up in the PJ Community Room.

March 16-21—Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute in Fort Davis will be having their **Annual Cactus and Succulent Festival**. Great opportunity to learn more about the desert plants! Special lectures will be offered on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10 am.

March 20-22 Davis Mountains Nature Preserve will be having their Open Weekend - see page 5 for more details.

Thursday, March 26 at 7 pm—Terlingua Trio will present a concert of classical music at the Last Minute Low Budget Theater at 7 pm. Musicians are Kerry O'Hare, violin; Judy Eron, oboe; Jane Brown, viola. See directions below to find the theater. Compositions by Tanayev, Templeton Strong and Cremont.

March 20-28 The local theater company “Last Minute Low Budget Productions” will present **“37 Postcards”** by Michael McKeever. Director Joe Sirotnak has cast the entire show from **Big Bend National Park residents**. The traditional Opening Gala is set for Friday, March 20, at 7 p.m., curtain at 8. Subsequent evening performances run March 21, 22, 27, and 28 with a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, March 28 (yes! two in one day). The location of the theater is a bit difficult to describe. Go to Study Butte and as you head toward Alpine and go past the Chili Pepper Restaurant and the post office. Look on the left side of the highway for a dirt road called Fire Station Road (I am not certain that there is a sign). It is past Big Bend Baptist Church and before Bee Mountain Hardware. The theater is in a metal building and appears a bit rustic from the outside, but is quite well-equipped inside. This is going to be a lot of fun!